

DRAFT



GCSE

MUSIC

A fun, modern and exciting specification which, in addition to traditional activities, now includes beatboxing, DJ-ing and Sequencing – making it appealing to teachers and students alike.

Linking the course content throughout the different units, our specification helps to provide a good basis for a smoother transition to A Level.

www.ocr.org.uk/music/newgcse

What's happening to GCSEs?

OCR is offering new GCSEs for first teaching in September 2009*.

We've taken this opportunity to improve the quality of our GCSEs for teachers and learners alike.

We've made improvements in three key areas: updated and relevant content, a focus on developing students' personal, learning and thinking skills, and flexible assessment, so teachers can choose the best learning approach for the job.

We want to make the introduction of these new GCSEs as easy for you to manage as possible.

The main changes are:

- Controlled assessment will be introduced for most subjects
- The opportunity will be taken to bring course content up to date
- Examinations should provide opportunity for extended writing and more varied question types
- All GCSEs will meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act.

Our approach is to provide consistency across all our GCSEs by offering the flexibility that unitised qualifications bring, allowing teaching and assessment in either a linear or unitised fashion.



*Not all GCSEs are changing. There are a few exceptions: the new Science GCSE was introduced in 2006. New English, English Literature, ICT and Maths GCSEs will be offered for first teaching in 2010.

Improving GCSE Music with OCR

We've involved teachers throughout the development process, so the new specifications, support materials and schemes of work should be exactly what you need to teach OCR GCSE Music. To ensure accuracy in our content, we've also consulted subject associations, professional membership groups, subject societies and other subject experts.



Our GCSE Music offers:

- A wide range of instrumental choices
- Reduced administration through the electronic submission of controlled assessments
- An option for up to 60% of assessment to be completed before the end of the two-year course.

Making change easy

We'd like to make these changes as easy for you to manage as possible. To minimise disruption, we will:

- Guide you through the process of moving to OCR
- Bring you the latest information through our Focus on 14–19 magazine and our new website www.GCSEChanges.com
- Show you approved specifications one year ahead of first teaching, so you have plenty of preparation time
- Offer you a range of OCR support materials, including schemes of work and sample assessment materials, as we did with GCEs
- Make OCR's publisher partner resources – tailored to the new specifications – available from January 2009
- Endorse a variety of published resources, giving you a wider choice of quality support materials.

We're also running extra INSET and training courses across the UK, so now it's even easier to discover how OCR has developed its specifications.

Controlled assessment

While reviewing GCSEs, QCA looked into the coursework element of the current qualifications and decided to introduce controlled assessment as an alternative to coursework. This will address some of the issues raised in recent coursework reviews, such as plagiarism.



Controlled assessment has to be done in a supervised environment. However, if the task has a research element, the student may complete this without supervision.

The benefits of controlled assessment include:

- More straightforward marking – for most subjects, we provide worksheets for students to complete
- Improved reliability and validity
- Varying levels of control, to help you manage the assessments and your time more easily
- Greater confidence in authenticating students' work as their own
- Greater ease in fitting assessments into your normal teaching programmes.

For GCSE Music, controlled assessment means:

- Task setting – OCR will assume a limited level of control in relation to the setting of tasks, and the OCR-set tasks should be used.
- Task taking – OCR will assume a medium level of control and the task-taking parameters will be defined for several key controls, with the remainder being set by centres.
- Task marking – All controlled assessment units will be marked by the centre assessor, using the OCR marking grids and guidance, and will be moderated by the OCR-appointed moderator.

We will review our controlled assessment tasks every two years.

Flexible assessment

The assessment for the new OCR GCSEs is organised into units which can either all be taken at the end of the course in a linear fashion, or be used to complement a more unitised approach to teaching and learning. This gives you the flexibility to choose the assessment approach best suited to your centre and your students. A unitised structure gives you the flexibility to co-teach short and full courses.

We already offer assessments that are organised into units at A Level and for some existing GCSEs. For many subjects, assessments will be available twice a year. Flexible assessment means:

- You will have a choice of learning approaches – linear or unitised
- The assessment can be timed to match the point of learning within the course, making it easier for candidates to show what they know, understand and can do
- Students can re-sit a unit rather than repeat the entire assessment
- Some students are motivated by ongoing feedback and this helps them identify their learning needs
- A unitised approach makes it easier for students to stay on track with their studies and manage their time effectively
- The pressure of an 'all or nothing' assessment is removed
- Examination stress is reduced by permitting assessment over a longer period so that not all assessments are concentrated in a narrow window at the end of two years

- With a similar format to A Levels and Diplomas, GCSEs will help prepare students for the next phase of their education.

To ensure that the assessment supports the coherence of the GCSEs and there is no over-assessment, QCA has put two rules in place: 40% of the assessment must happen at the end of the course and only one re-sit of each assessment unit is allowed.

You may know 'unitised' as modular.

Unit title and description	Assessment including duration	Weighting
Unit B351: Integrated Tasks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A performance, a composition and a commentary, all related to Area of Study 1. 	Controlled assessment	30%
Unit B352: Practical Portfolio <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A second performance or realisation, a second composition and a log. 	Controlled assessment	30%
Unit B353: Creative Task <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A practical examination drawing on understanding gained from all areas of study, in which candidates develop a short piece, based on a stimulus, and communicate it. 	Practical examination 45 minutes	15%
Unit B354: Listening Examination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A written paper, with CD, assessing knowledge and understanding of Areas of Study 2, 3 and 4. 	Written examination Up to 1 hour 30 minutes	25%

Assessment objectives

The assessment objectives are designed to reflect the non-statutory guidelines for Music.

Within this specification candidates will need to demonstrate their ability to:

AO1

- Performing skills: performing/realising with technical control, expression and interpretation.

AO2

- Composing skills: creating and developing musical ideas with technical control and coherence.

AO3

- Listening and appraising skills: analysing and evaluating music using musical terminology.

The areas of study are:

Area of Study 1

My Music

Area of Study 2

Shared Music

Area of Study 3

Dance Music

Area of Study 4

Descriptive Music



What changes, and what stays the same?

Support for GCSE Music teachers

	What changes?	What stays the same?
Structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Now unitisedNow four units rather than three components, and more opportunities to take the units over the two-year courseExaminations for Units B351 and B352 can be taken in JuneExaminations for Units B353 and B354 can be taken in January or JuneAll units can be re-taken once.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unit B354 is directly equivalent to the old component 3.
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes beatboxing, rapping, DJ-ing, dance music and SequencingTwo new stimuli to choose from in Unit B353: a storyboard and a poem.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Many aspects of the content are recognisable from the old specification, providing continuity.
Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unit B353 is externally assessed (old component 2 was internally assessed)Units B351 and B352 are controlled assessment (component 1 was coursework)Electronic submission of controlled assessments is encouraged.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Unit B354 remains exactly the same.

OCR offers a range of support materials, developed following extensive research and consultation with teachers. We've designed them to save you time when preparing for the new specifications and to support you while teaching them.

Our support materials and events include face-to-face training courses, schemes of work that you can customise, endorsed publisher partner resources, access to teacher and examiner networks (both online and offline), plus an extensive past-papers service.

OCR's online resources include:

- E-communities – online networks of subject specialists for sharing knowledge, views and ideas
- Interchange – a completely free and secure website that helps you carry out the administrative tasks associated with examinations quickly and easily
- Past examination papers
- Marking schemes
- Subject e-alerts – for teachers who register for updates.

We offer a wide range of training courses in the UK, so you have easy access to information about our new specifications – direct from the experts. See over for more details.



Training for OCR GCSE Music

Our Get Ready events offer a taste of the new specification. Dates are given below, and you can book your place now at www.GCSEchanges.com.

Later, we'll be running our Get Started events, which take you through the specification in more detail and help you work towards first teaching. They will take place during the spring and summer terms 2009.

Get Ready – introducing the new specification (first teaching from September 2009)*

This course is for all teachers – new and experienced – who are interested in finding out more about the new specification. It's open to you, even if you don't teach the current OCR specification.

It's a **FREE** half-day session, including refreshments, a light finger buffet and course materials, offering an overview of the new OCR specification in GCSE Music. Key features include:

- A look at the new structure, content and assessment methods
- A comparison between old and new specification content
- An introduction to the support and resources available from OCR
- A summary of the benefits of choosing the new OCR specification.

Date	Location	Course code
Wed 9 Jul 2008 AM	London	OMUA101
Wed 9 Jul 2008 PM	London	OMUA102
Mon 17 Nov 2008 AM	Coventry	OMUA103
Mon 17 Nov 2008 PM	Coventry	OMUA104
Tues 9 Dec 2008 AM	Manchester	OMUA105
Tues 9 Dec 2008 PM	Manchester	OMUA106
Wed 4 Mar 2009 AM	London	OMUA107
Wed 4 Mar 2009 PM	London	OMUA108

Please note:

- Free OCR Training courses will not incur any penalty fees however, so that we can offer your place to another delegate please notify us in good time of your course cancellation.
- Dates are subject to change so please ensure you read your booking confirmation and web updates as OCR Training cannot be held responsible for delegates who attend on an incorrect date.
- Courses throughout summer 2008 and autumn 2008 terms may be based on the draft specification.
- *The times of these courses may vary from the standard advertised time.

Publishing support for GCSE Music teachers

We're working with Rhinegold Publishing to ensure that you have OCR-endorsed resources to support you through this specification.

To find the latest information on published resources, please visit www.ocr.org.uk/music/newgcse and choose published resources from the right-hand menu.



www.ocr.org.uk

OCR customer contact centre

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